

A6 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1988 ...

Debate Begins Today on Restructuring Defense

\$33 Billion Cut in '89 Must Be Followed by \$200 Billion More Over 3 Years, Carlucci Warns

By George C. Wilson
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The national debate over how to accomplish the most extensive restructuring of the U.S. military since the Vietnam war opens today, with Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci warning Congress that the \$33 billion cut in the newest Pentagon budget will have to be followed by reductions of at least \$200 billion in the subsequent three years.

"I expect a very intense summer program review and major restructuring of defense programs," Car-

lucci wrote the Senate Armed Services Committee in serving notice

that the fiscal 1989 military budget for the year beginning Oct. 1 is only

the start of the turnaround forced

on the Pentagon by lawmakers

more worried about the deficit and

a recession than the Soviet threat.

The five-year rearmament pro-

gram projected by Defense Secre-

tary Caspar W. Weinberger, who left office in November, has already been superseded by a less ambitious plan drafted by Carlucci. Weinber-

ger called for annual increases in the 1990s of 3 percent after allowing for inflation. Carlucci, in the budget to be unveiled today, settled for 2 percent real increases.

Congressional analysts said yes-

terday that the lawmakers are far

more likely to keep cutting the Pen-

tagon by 2 percent a year, as they

have in the past three years, than to

raise it as Carlucci is requesting.

The new president will inherit tur-

moil in the military, with each ser-

vice fighting for a bigger piece of

the smaller money pie, and in Con-

gress, where politicians will try to

stave off cuts costing jobs in their

home states.

At one extreme of the debate

formally opening today is the view

that Congress endangers the safety

of the country by continuing to cut

the defense budget. The opposite

view is that President Reagan and

Weinberger drove the Pentagon

budget to an artificially high level

in the 1990s to modernize existing

weapons. Selling the Pentagon new

generations of electronics for ships

so-called "air wings."

"I am now undertaking the formi-

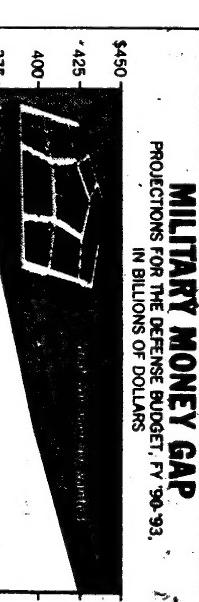
best way to offset the lack of new,

startups, they said. Forty-five percent

of the cost of the Air Force's Ad-

vanced Tactical Fighter (ATF) will

be for its electronics, said one ex-



decrease, according to some legislators. A contrary argument is that removal of nuclear weapons from Europe under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty requires higher spending for non-nuclear weapons.

The Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps are taking people off payrolls to save money immediately. Old ships will be retired earlier, weapons buying will be stretched out, new weapon starts will be restricted, and repairs and overhauls will be postponed as another part of this retrenchment effort.

Aerospace executives told The Washington Post yesterday that with few new weapons programs in sight, their firms will vie for the billions the Pentagon will spend in the 1990s to modernize existing weapons. Selling the Pentagon new aircraft and missiles looks like the best way to offset the lack of new, nuan increase, the bigger crunch will come beyond fiscal 1989 for the defense budget. The opposite view is that President Reagan and Weinberger drove the Pentagon budget to an artificially high level before I would be in a position to provide you with a meaningful five-year defense program, he said.

The Senate Budget Committee is already looking beyond the effect of the \$33 billion reduction to be unveiled in the budget request and is focusing on how the military services can reduce forces in the

the NATO treaty so European ships could replace U.S. warships in the Mediterranean, transferring the \$33 billion reduction to be unveiled in the budget request and is commitment to defend Norway from the Marines to the Army transforming several Army active-duty units based in the United States to reserve elements and conducting a phased withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea under the argument that South Korea now has the capability to provide for almost all of its defense.